

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7482

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a program to award grants to eligible entities to carry out projects that further agricultural resiliency and modernization, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 2, 2020

Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. COX of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. PANETTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a program to award grants to eligible entities to carry out projects that further agricultural resiliency and modernization, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Future of Agricultural
5 Resiliency And Modernization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The evidence for human-induced climate
2 change is undeniable and our agricultural commu-
3 nities are increasingly experiencing the impacts of
4 climate change.

5 (2) The volatility of weather patterns, ranging
6 from more frequent and severe droughts, floods, and
7 wildfires can negatively impact agricultural produc-
8 tivity.

9 (3) Rural communities, that often lack federal
10 and state resources, are especially vulnerable to the
11 impacts of climate change, such as revenue losses,
12 hours lost at work, and infrastructure damages.

13 (4) Climate resilient practices and technologies
14 are needed to help save Federal, State, and local
15 taxpayers money. These technologies include manure
16 resource recovery systems, which recover the nutri-
17 ents contained in organic matter from their source
18 help protect water quality.

19 (5) The need for measures that promote energy
20 and water use efficiency, conservation, and renew-
21 able energy will greatly reduce the adverse impacts
22 of climate change.

23 (6) Many farmers and agricultural producers
24 are currently utilizing environmentally beneficial
25 practices that also better their production costs.

1 (7) Excessive heat exposure poses a direct
2 threat to farm workers and the economy. Climate
3 change increases this danger, as 18 of the 19 hottest
4 years on record have occurred since 2001. Rising
5 temperatures are projected to cause an increase in
6 heat-related workplace injuries, illnesses, loss in
7 labor capacity, and decreased productivity. In light
8 of these findings, the Federal government has an ob-
9 ligation to protect farmworkers, outdoor workers,
10 and employers in the United States from climate
11 change.

12 (8) The Department of Agriculture should use
13 research and development programs to make dairy
14 digesters more affordable while mitigating environ-
15 mental effects. Further, the Department should pro-
16 vide technical assistance, community support, and fi-
17 nancial incentives and grants for farmers to partner
18 together to build cooperative digester models. The
19 Department should use cross-agency collaborative
20 models and utilize existing Federal programs, such
21 as the Environmental Protection Agency's AgSTAR
22 program to increase farmer access and engagement
23 in these efforts.

24 (9) The Department should engage in partner-
25 ships with other Federal agencies to control invasive

1 species, in a manner that protects the environment,
2 infrastructure, and agricultural lands in the United
3 States.

4 (10) Federal assistance is needed to help farm-
5 ing practices become more resilient and sustainable
6 for the long-term.

7 **SEC. 3. FUTURE OF AGRICULTURAL RESILIENCY AND MOD-**
8 **ERNIZATION FUND.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture
10 (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall carry
11 out a program to award grants to eligible entities to carry
12 out projects for a qualified purpose.

13 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to re-
14 ceive a grant under this section is—

15 (1) a Federal agency;

16 (2) a State or a group of States;

17 (3) a unit of local government or a group of
18 local governments;

19 (4) an irrigation district;

20 (5) a Tribal government or a consortium of
21 Tribal governments;

22 (6) a State or regional transit agency or a
23 group of State or regional transit agencies;

24 (7) a nonprofit organization;

1 (8) a special purpose district or public author-
2 ity;

3 (9) a third-party private entity, the primary
4 business of which is related to agriculture (as deter-
5 mined by the Secretary); and

6 (10) any other entity, as determined by the Sec-
7 retary.

8 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity selected to re-
9 ceive a grant under this section may use funds received
10 through the grant to carry out projects that further agri-
11 cultural resiliency and modernization through—

12 (1) reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in-
13 creasing resilience in the agricultural sector;

14 (2) increasing carbon sequestration;

15 (3) improving soil health;

16 (4) providing multiple benefits, including water
17 supply reliability, ecosystem preservation, ground-
18 water management and enhancements, and water
19 quality improvements;

20 (5) in accordance with state and federal law,
21 expediting projects with a focus in renewable energy,
22 including biofuels;

23 (6) incorporating collaborative partnerships that
24 involve local communities in project planning on eco-

1 nomic and social benefits of sustainable agricultural
2 production;

3 (7) investing in climate-resilient infrastructure
4 and technology;

5 (8) converting plant wastes into higher value
6 biocarbon products, including practices like pyrol-
7 ysis;

8 (9) improving air and water quality, including
9 pollutants and odors, with dairy digesters and non-
10 digester manure management practices and tech-
11 nologies;

12 (10) supporting clean air, water, climate, and a
13 sustainable environment helping develop local and
14 national resilience strategies against droughts,
15 wildfires, and floods;

16 (11) supporting and funding purchases of
17 cleaner and lower emission agriculture-related equip-
18 ment like harvesting equipment, heavy-duty trucks,
19 agricultural pump engines, tractors, and other
20 equipment used in agricultural operations; and

21 (12) increasing research on the most effective
22 methods of eradicating and controlling invasive spe-
23 cies and pests, such as nutria.

1 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
 2 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
 3 \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

4 **SEC. 4. PYROLYSIS INNOVATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
 6 establish a program under which the Secretary will award
 7 grants to eligible entities to carry out not fewer than 10
 8 pilot projects, with the potential to reduce or sequester
 9 greenhouse emissions that convert and valorize tree nut
 10 harvest by-products and waste into multiple higher value
 11 biocarbon products, including sustainable industrial appli-
 12 cations, agrochemicals, repurposing process heat, energy
 13 and construction materials.

14 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—The term “eligible
 15 entity” means—

16 (1) a third-party private entity, the primary
 17 business of which is related to agriculture (as deter-
 18 mined by the Secretary);

19 (2) a nongovernmental organization with experi-
 20 ence working with agricultural producers (as deter-
 21 mined by the Secretary); and

22 (3) a governmental organization.

23 (c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
 24 on which the first grant is awarded under subsection (a),
 25 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agri-

1 culture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
2 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
3 ate a report on—

4 (1) the activities carried out using grants
5 awarded under such subsection;

6 (2) best practices used to leverage the invest-
7 ment of the Federal Government for the purposes
8 specified in subsection (a); and

9 (3) an assessment of the results achieved by the
10 program established under this section.

11 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
12 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

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